

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A client terminal in which a software including a plurality of functions is installed and which is capable of communicating with a server apparatus, the terminal comprising:

a setting unit, which sets for each the plurality of functions an enabled-state flag indicating that the function is usable or a disabled-state flag indicating that the function is unusable, wherein the function with the enabled-state flag is to be subjected to charging;

a payment unit, which executes, every first predetermined period, payment processing of a predetermined price of the function with the enabled-state flag set by said setting unit;

a time count unit, which counts a period in which the function with the enabled-state flag remains unused;

a prohibition request unit, which automatically requests the server apparatus to prohibit use of the function with the enabled-state flag which remains unused if the period counted by said time count unit exceeds a second predetermined period;

a changing unit, which changes the enabled-state flag of the function which remains unused to the disabled-state flag in response to a response from the server apparatus to the request by said prohibition request unit;

an icon display unit, which displays icons respectively corresponding to the plurality of functions such that each icon distinguishably shows whether the corresponding function is usable or unusable, in accordance with the enabled-state flag or the disabled-state flag set by said setting unit; and

a permission request unit, which, in response to a user instruction, requests the server apparatus to permit use of the function with the flag changed from the enabled-state flag to the disabled-state flag by said changing unit,

wherein, if said changing unit changes the enabled-state flag of the function which remains unused to the disabled-state flag, said icon display unit changes a display status of the icon for that function, and

wherein said changing unit changes the disabled-state flag of the function which remains unused to the enabled-state flag in response to a response from the server apparatus to the request by said permission request unit, and said payment unit executes the payment processing of the predetermined price of that function, and

wherein said time count unit resets the period in which the function with the enabled-state flag remains unused when that function is used.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A terminal according to claim 16, wherein the function is at least one of a scan function, print function, a copy function and a facsimile transmission function.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claims 19-21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A control method of client terminal in which a software including a plurality of functions is installed and which is capable of communicating with a server apparatus, said method comprising the step of:

setting for each the plurality of functions an enabled-state flag indicating that the function is usable or a disabled-state flag indicating that the function is unusable, wherein the function with the enabled-state flag is to be subjected to charging;

executing, every first predetermined period, payment processing of a predetermined price of the function with the enabled-state flag set in said setting step;

counting a period in which the function with the enabled-state flag remains unused;

automatically requesting the server apparatus to prohibit use of the function with the enabled-state flag which remains unused if the period counted in said counting step exceeds a second predetermined period;

changing the enabled-state flag with the function which remains unused to the disabled-state flag in response to a response from the server apparatus to the request in said prohibition request step;

displaying icons respectively corresponding to the plurality of functions such that each icon distinguishably shows whether the corresponding function is usable or unusable, in accordance with the enabled-state flag or the disabled-state flag set in said setting step; and

requesting, in response to a user instruction, the server apparatus to permit use of the function with the flag changed from the enabled-state flag to the disabled-state flag in said changing step,

wherein, if said changing step changes the enabled-state flag of the function which remains unused to the disabled-state flag, said displaying step changes a display status of the icon for that function, and

wherein said changing step changes the disabled-state flag of the function which remains unused to the enabled-state flag in response to a response from the server apparatus to the request in said requesting step, and said executing step executes the payment processing of the predetermined price of that function, and

wherein said counting step resets the period in which the function with the enabled-state flag remains unused when that function is used.

Claim 23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (Currently amended): A record medium storing a program readably by a computer for implementing a control method of client terminal in which a software including a plurality of functions is installed and which is capable of communicating with a server apparatus, said method comprising the step of:

setting for each the plurality of functions an enabled-state flag indicating that the function is usable or a disabled-state flag indicating that the function is unusable, wherein the function with the enabled-state flag is to be subjected to charging;

executing, every first predetermined period, payment processing of a predetermined price of the function with the enabled-state flag set in said setting step;

counting a period in which the function with the enabled-state flag remains unused;

automatically requesting the server apparatus to prohibit use of the function with the enabled-state flag which remains unused if the period counted in said counting step exceeds a second predetermined period;

changing the enabled-state flag with the function which remains unused to the disabled-state flag in response to a response from the server apparatus to the request in said prohibition request step;.

displaying icons respectively corresponding to the plurality of functions such that each icon distinguishably shows whether the corresponding function is usable or unusable, in accordance with the enabled-state flag or the disabled-state flag set in said setting step; and

requesting, in response to a user instruction, the server apparatus to permit use of the function with the flag changed from the enabled-state flag to the disabled-state flag in said changing step,

wherein, if said changing step changes the enabled-state flag of the function which remains unused to the disabled-state flag, said displaying step changes a display status of the icon for that function, ~~and~~

wherein said changing step changes the disabled-state flag of the function which remains unused to the enabled-state flag in response to a response from the server apparatus to the request in said requesting step, and said executing step executes the payment processing of the predetermined price of that function, and

wherein said counting step resets the period in which the function with the enabled-state flag remains unused when that function is used.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A terminal according to claim 16, wherein the second predetermined period is determined in correspondence with the first predetermined period.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A terminal according to claim 16, wherein the predetermined price is determined for each function and must be paid for usage of the function.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A control method according to claim 22, wherein the second predetermined period is determined in correspondence with the first predetermined period.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A control method according to claim 22, wherein the predetermined price is determined for each function and must be paid for usage of the function.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A record medium according to claim 24, wherein the second predetermined period is determined in correspondence with the first predetermined period.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A record medium according to claim 24, wherein the predetermined price is determined for each function and must be paid for usage of the function.